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Picturesque
White Plains, N.Y.
Illustrated by
John Röscher.



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Picturesque

White Plains

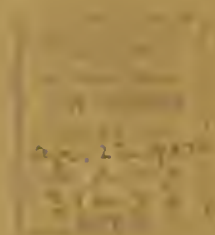
New York

Illustrated by
John Röscher

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Copyright and Published 1902
By JOHN RÖSCH,
White Plains, N. Y.



White Plains, N. Y.



S "The apparel oft proclaims the man," so the name of a place usually has some relation to its situation, commemorates some important event in its history, or is given in honor of its founder or benefactor. Such, however, is not the case with White Plains, for with singular infelicity of designation our forefathers selected a name entirely without significance and wholly misleading.

The stranger, hearing it spoken of, naturally pictures to himself the monotony of the prairie without its vastness, or the flats of Holland unrelieved by the picturesque windmill or the sluggish canal.

What, then, is the true topography of this village? Nestling among the rugged hills of old Westchester, with scarcely a level spot within its borders, it bears, as viewed from the south, a striking resem-



VIEW FROM HILLAIR.

blance to the beautiful city of Florence, the leaf-clad heights in the distance suggesting the cool shades of the Vallombrosia, the crystal Bronx representing the "Tawny Arno," and the stately Court House reproducing the Italian villa.

If you would get a correct idea of its altitude and of the beauty of the surrounding country, stand on the great portico of the residence of Mr. O. R. Harriman, Jr., or on the site of Mr. Paul G. Thebaud's new home, Hillair, and look about you.

Far below, in the valley, the Mamaroneck River pursues its tortuous course to the sea through an apparently unbroken forest, and beyond is the broad expanse of "The Sound" and the Long Island shore stretching to the east and



ON THE BRONX.

west, until its outline gradually fades away and disappears. To your right is a panorama of hills walled in by the Palisades.

Passing on to "Hill Crest" or "Ophir Castle," an entirely different scene presents itself, one that will make the Englishman feel quite at home as he views the rich rolling meadows, and the tall church spires rising from among the trees.

Do not be content with contemplating nature from afar. Come nearer and see what a rich floral store she has here. As you return from your office, weary and worn with the struggle of the day, she comes out to meet you and extend a grateful welcome.



COURT HOUSE.

From Scarsdale, right into the heart of the village, she has stationed a guard of Hemlocks to watch her beautiful Bronx, clothing them with ermine and studding them with jewels in Winter, and in the Spring tipping every branchlet with a tassel of golden green. The silver-barked Beeches also rise on either side and interlace their protecting branches above the rippling stream. Look to the left and see these masses of lovely Pinks on the western slope, and a little higher up, note the great layers of creamy white Dogwood rising one above the other. Later in the season you will find the pictures carpeted with Golden Rod and the orange colored Butterfly Plant. But, if you would hold still closer converse with Nature, visit her in her virgin home up among "The Hills," on the steep incline of the new reservoir. Here may be found the rare flora of this latitude, many of them unknown even to eager amateurs. The hillsides are covered with Laurel and the Pink Azalia. In the shade of the forest trees are found the Monotropa, the yellow and the pink Moccasin Flower, and several varieties



RIDGELY MANOR. RESIDENCE OF OLIVER HARRIMAN, JR.

of dainty Orchid. Up among the rocks the Arbutus, that harbinger of Spring, peeps out from among the withered leaves before the snow has taken its final leave.

Here, too, may be heard the bark of the fox, the drumming of the partridge, and at twilight, the wail of the whipporwill.

All this within a radius of three miles from the station, which can be reached in thirty-five minutes from 42d Street.

"As all roads led to Rome," so all roads in Westchester County lead to White Plains, and the converse of the proposition, which is more important for our present purpose, is that roads radiate from it in all directions, bringing its residents in touch with all parts of the County. And this is one of the very attractive features of the place. At most seaside resorts there are but one or two fine drives, but here one may drive over an entirely new road, with new surroundings and new scenes day after day, and make endless combinations extending the distance from five to twenty-five miles at pleasure. Yonkers, "Sunny Side," Sleepy Hollow, the parks and princely mansions



BROADWAY, LOOKING SOUTH.



BROADWAY, LOOKING NORTHWEST.



BROADWAY

of Miss Gould and Mr. Wm. Rockefeller, are all within easy driving distance to the west. In the opposite direction, at no greater distance, are Larchmont, Orienta, Rye Beach and Belle Haven, the Newport of Connecticut. If you prefer farm, woodland and lake scenery, take the State road along the base of the precipitous rocks of Mount Misery and Kensico Reservoir, cross the valley to King Street, return by way of Rye Lake and St. Mary's Lake, and you have primitive farm life and "bits" of lake and mountain view, worthy of the Adirondacks or the Maine wilderness.

Within the village much attention is given to the adornment and care of the lawns and the street

fence is rapidly becoming a thing of the past. The most striking feature of all, and one that surprises the stranger and calls forth expressions of admiration, is Broadway, which was originally the one and only street of the town. Fifty years ago the County buildings, churches, stores, as well as the principal residences were here. This was White Plains. Now there is not an office or place of business to be found on it. A mile in length it gradually rises for two-thirds of the distance and then gently falls away. From a width of 100 feet at the upper end it widens out to more than 300 feet at the lower. Fine old trees shade the walks and drives and are scattered singly or in groups over



BROADWAY.



SOLDIERS' MONUMENT ON BROADWAY.



RESIDENCE OF R. E. FARLEY.

the broad green. During the past Summer the roadways have been curbed, guttered and macadamized. Double approaches have been made to the principal intersecting streets, leaving triangular plots of varying size for fountain, shrubbery or flowers. This is under the care of the Village Park Association, which has done much to arouse interest in this fine old street, and to develop its infinite possibilities as a public park. Although this organization has been in existence only about three years, surprising results have already crowned its efforts. Unshorn grass has been succeeded by velvety turf, and gay flowers now bloom where unsightly weeds held undisputed possession of the ground,

giving effective masses of color on the rolling hillside and in the openings among the trees. Nothing speaks more eloquently of the general law abiding character of the residents, than the fact that it is a rare exception when a flower is plucked or disturbed, though wholly unprotected by any enclosure and growing, in some instances, close to the beaten track of travel, over which hundreds of men, women and children, in every walk of life, pass daily.

All the improvements contemplated may not be completed this season, but within two years at the farthest, the main features at least will become realities, for with the interest of the people so thoroughly aroused as it now is, nothing can stop the good work, and when it is finished it will be the finest combination of park and esplanade to be found in any village in the Empire State, a perpetual joy to all lovers of the beautiful who view it, and an object of earnest solicitude and honest pride to the entire community. Here, then, you have a lovely park at your very door; delightful drives over the hills and through the rolling charming walks through



READY CARR RESIDENCE OF JAMES T. WALLER



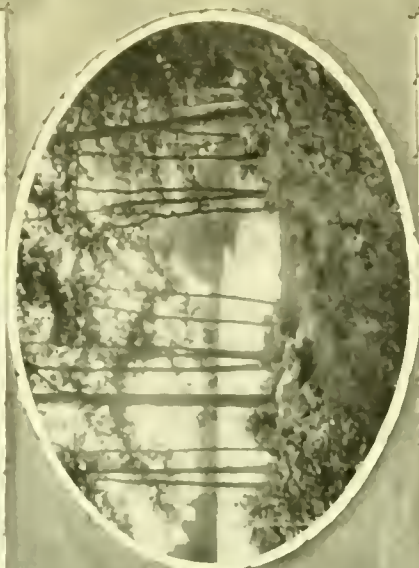
HAMILTON AVENUE.

the woods and by the lakes; superb views of wide extent over a most picturesque country, every charm of rural life.

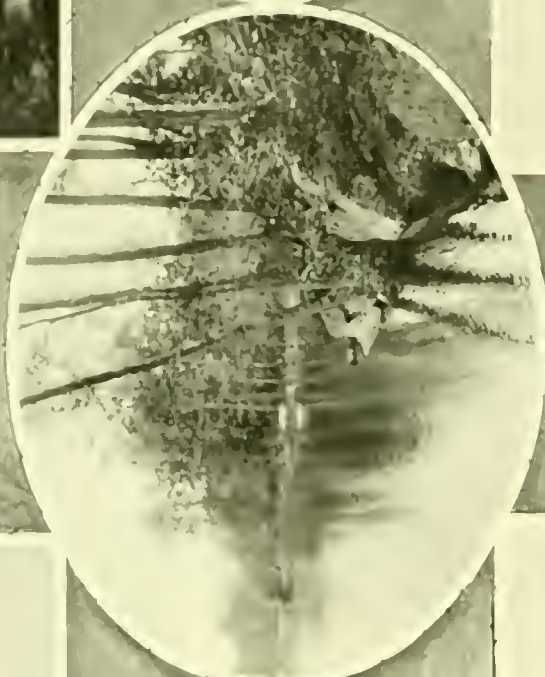
To do justice to White Plains in a space so limited is impossible. This, speaking in language appropriate to the subject, must necessarily be only the frame work around which a most substantial house might be built.

The development of White Plains real estate has been remarkable in many respects. There are men living here to-day, who well remember the time when White Plains consisted of a few buildings grouped chiefly around the lower or southern end of Broadway. Today there are approximately 2,200 buildings within the corporate limits, and a great tract of about five square miles is thickly settled by White Plains citizens. Building operations are steadily increasing in number and importance. It is estimated that last year, in the neighborhood of 175 houses were built; and despite the comparatively great cost of building at this time, many new buildings are in course of construction. In character, these houses range from the modest cottage to the mansion of the millionaire. Another development in the building line is the construction of office buildings. A fire-proof brick office building was a comparatively recent addition to the architecture of the village, and two other brick office buildings, one of which is five stories in height, have just been completed; while still another will soon be under way.

An interesting feature of this rapid progress in building has been the opening and development of new sections. Almost in a night, it has seemed, tracts of more or less unkempt land have been opened and developed, and turned into park-like regions with macadam roads, stone side-walks, green



SIMPLE
LAKE



AND THE NEW

RESERVOIR





COURT STREET.

lawns and pretty homes. And yet, in the face of all this development, real estate men agree that they are unable to meet the demand for houses to rent on the part of strangers who wish to locate here. Between 1890 and 1900, the population of White Plains has nearly doubled. In respect to the percentage of increase of population during this period, White Plains probably leads the cities and villages of the State of New York. This fact has caused much comment and no little surprise. And with this great increase in population has come as a natural sequence, a great increase in real estate values. In quick succession, section after section of new territory has been opened, developed and im-



RESIDENCE OF J. T. LOCKWOOD.

proved. Yet, in spite of the fact that all of this additional land has been made available for homes, the advance in values generally has been strong and steady. In many sections of the village, lots command two or three times what they might have been purchased for a few years ago. Some land, for instance, that three years ago was used as a cow pasture and was purchasable for a few hundred dollars an acre, now sells at \$40.00 or more a front foot with a depth of only 125 feet. The home seeker may still, however, find hundreds of desirable lots that can be secured at such a low price as to be easily within the reach of the man of modest income. As indicative of the advance and development of



ROCKY DELL RESIDENCE OF N. C. REYNAL.



TOTT V CROFT RESIDENCE OF D. H. SAFFORD



MAMARONECK AVENUE.

White Plains real estate, it is worth while to compare the corporate assessments of different periods. In the year 1891, the total assessed value of real estate in the village was \$1,261,178.00, with a personal assessment of \$78,700.00. Five years later, in 1896, the assessment of real estate was \$2,142,495.00, and the assessment of personalty, \$98,500.00. At the expiration of another five year period, in 1901, we find our real estate assessed at \$6,761,065 00, and our personalty at \$1,064,998 00, or a grand total of over \$7,800,000 00. It is interesting to note that in the twenty years from 1871 to 1891, there was an advance of only about \$300,000.00 in the assessed value of real estate, to wit:



RIDGE LAWN. RESIDENCE OF MRS. M. B. MOEHRING.



HILL CREST RESIDENCE OF TRENOR PARK.

from approximately one million to one million three hundred thousand, and that most of this wonderful advance noted above has taken place in the last five years. Of course, in comparing real estate assessments of different years, the fact that assessors have frequently adopted a different standard or percentage of valuation must be considered, but these figures will convey a fair idea of the remarkable advance.

Some of our friends along the river and elsewhere, who have noted our progress, while their own homes have perhaps stood still, or taken a few steps backwards, find it hard to understand this prosperity and ask the why and wherefore. The reasons are many, and a few will be men-



WINTER SCENE ON GREENRIDGE AVENUE



GEDNEY FARM. RESIDENCE OF HOWARD WILLITS.

tioned. Some we may credit to nature and some to men. No one of these reasons is probably entitled to be designated "the" reason, but each has had potent influence and they have united to make White Plains one of the most desirable places of residence within the limits of civilization—a broad statement to be sure, but one, the truth of which may be demonstrated.

The village of White Plains is truly remarkable for its healthful location. In fact, there is no place within the same distance of New York that can compare with it in this respect. As far as malaria is concerned, while this dreaded poison is found more or less in most places up to a certain degree of latitude, it



OPHIR FARM. RESIDENCE OF WHITELAW REID



FOUNTAIN SQUARE, CENTRAL AVENUE

can be stated truthfully, that for many years the village has been entirely free from it.

The town suffers less from epidemics than any of the surrounding villages, and when any of them *do* appear they seem never to attain to any great magnitude, nor do they ever become very violent.

As to accessibility, the village is situated midway between the Hudson River and Long Island Sound, about seven miles from each, and is connected by steam and electric cars with every section of the county. A trolley arm extends from White Plains to Tarrytown, another to St. Mary's Lake, another to Mamaronock, with connections to Harrison, Rye Beach, Port Chester, the



RESIDENCE OF DR. A. L. SCOTT

Connecticut shore, Larchmont, New Rochelle and the City of New York. Still another arm extends to Scarsdale, and this will soon reach Mount Vernon and connect there with a line to Yonkers. And it is probable that soon another trolley arm will be under construction to the north. One of the reasons why White Plains citizens are sanguine of the future, lies in the fact that the village is destined to be the centre of a great electric surface railway system, binding together all parts of the county and bringing them into close touch with the vast territory beyond the Westchester boundaries. Those having business in New York City comprise a large percentage of the population of the village. The regu-



RESIDENCE OF H. C. HENDERSON



GREENRIDGE AVENUE.

lar single trip fare is fifty cents; the round trip fare is ninety cents; the round trip by the so-called family ticket costs fifty-seven cents, and by the monthly ticket only about twenty cents or about \$0.35 a month.

Natural opportunity for expansion is another reason for White Plains' past, present and future growth. The needle of the compass can point in no direction in which White Plains cannot spread. No river, sound, or insurmountable hills cut her off on any side. On the contrary she is wholly surrounded by tracts of land which are suitable and desirable for residential purposes.

As the county seat of one of the most populous and wealthy counties in the State of New York, White Plains possesses a peculiar importance. Here are the offices of the Register, County Clerk, County Treasurer, Sheriff, and other county officers. Here sit the Supreme, Surrogate and County Courts, and the various trial terms during the year, bring to White Plains a multitude of lawyers, litigants, witnesses and jurors. The Board of Supervisors also have here their sessions.

In its nearness to New York City, lies one of the chief reasons for the advance of local real estate. So long as New York City grows, White Plains must grow. The suburban district contiguous to New York City is vast and varied, but no other section of it offers so many advantages for a place of residence as White Plains. New York City Hall can now be reached more quickly from White Plains, than from many sections of the Borough of Manhattan itself. While those who are able to judge from experience, will commonly concede that the shopping and theatrical districts of the Borough of Manhattan can be reached not only with greater comfort, but with greater speed from White Plains than from most sections of the Borough of Brooklyn. The new rapid transit system now under construction in New York City, will be a great and particular blessing to the suburban district north of the city, and our village will come in for its full measure of advantage. By means of it, the trip from White Plains to City Hall in the Borough of Manhattan, can probably be made in less than fifty minutes with the improvements contemplated and fully explained on another page. As to general improvements, there have been many. A few years ago a common expression was: "The one thing that White Plains needs is good roads." She has them now. During the past seven years, twelve miles of the village streets have been paved with brick, or macadamized. Railroad Avenue, the chief business street and several other streets have been paved over a part or the whole of their length with brick, while nearly all other important streets have been macadamized and equipped with brick paved gutters. On this feature of municipal improvement alone, the village has expended \$400,000.00; and the work along this line within the village has been supplemented by the State road work and similar work on the part of surrounding towns. Outside of the corporate limits and within a radius of a few miles of the village of White Plains, during the past few years, about 250 miles of highway have been macadamized at a



CHAPEL OF THE DIVINE COMPASSION

cost of approximately \$160,000.00, and the County is rapidly being covered with a net work of macadamized roads centering at White Plains.

Another improvement worth noticing is the village water system, which is now the property of the municipality.

A storage reservoir with a capacity of one hundred million gallons has been recently constructed at a cost of \$30,000.00, while the expense of acquiring the land needed for a water-shed was about \$60,000.00. This has been a large, but at the same time a wise and necessary expenditure, and White Plains now has a well nigh unsurpassed water supply and system. The village



CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST.



ST. JOHN'S ACADEMY.—PAROCHIAL SCHOOL.—PARISH.



PRESBYTERIAN



MEMORIAL M. E.



BAPTIST CHURCH



CONGREGATIONAL



GRACE EPISCOPAL

water is clean and clear, most agreeable to the taste, and has been proved by expert examination to be pure and wholesome. Further there are no corporate profits to be realized, and water is supplied to the consumer at an unusually low rate.

Another noteworthy fact in connection with our water system is the high pressure, which proves so advantageous in case of fire.

Under direct pumping, the pressure at hydrant, usually about 86 pounds, can be increased to 140 pounds, and made to equal the capacity of a first-class steam fire engine. This, in addition to a first-class fire alarm system, brings us to the mention of the very efficient volunteer fire department of White Plains.

Many times, what threatened to be a disastrous conflagration has been extinguished with little damage, solely by reason of the prompt, courageous and intelligent manner in which the local firemen have responded. They are a well-trained, well-disciplined and well-equipped body of men. Considering the size of the village, the loss by fire has been very small, and the rate of insurance, a point of interest to all owners of

improved property, is nearly or quite the "rock bottom" figure of insurance companies.

In her sewerage and drainage systems the village is also fortunate. The sewer system has been extended to every part of the village and connection with it is made compulsory. The natural drainage of the village is excellent and it is supplemented by a good system of drains.

Another recent improvement came in the establishment of the free mail delivery, which has been extended even to the rural districts.

Along every possible line of progress in the field of real estate, White Plains is advancing. Buildings which have been recently erected, or are in course of construction, are not only notable in



GROUNDS OF H. A. SCHERMERHORN



RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM R. BROWN.



RESIDENCE OF D. CROMWELL.

number, but in the improved order of architecture and the higher regard for the artistic, that is now shown. And the owners of old as well as new buildings, speaking generally, are displaying a greater pride in their maintenance than was once the rule. Civic pride is wide awake.

Great as the development of White Plains in recent years has been, a greater advance may confidently be expected within the next few years. The conditions at no time in the history of the village were more favorable for rapid progress than they are today.

The many attractions which exalt White Plains are perceptible to even any casual visitor. Nature has done her part in giving to this

locality a diversity of charms which elicit praise from every prospector. Those who came here to reside, seldom go away again except compelled by adverse circumstances. The reason of this is that our air, water and scenery are unsurpassed in all the elements and characteristics of a healthful, picturesque and well-located country home. Our elevation above tidewater is about 270 feet. With the ocean within only a few miles on the east and the hills and mountains of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania on the west. These conditions are known to give that atmospheric perfection which begets robust health.

Considering the large amount necessarily expended in securing the many improvements noted in this article and many not mentioned, the tax rate is not high, but is what must be expected in a modern, up-to-date village, the citizens of which are unwilling to submit to the discomforts and danger of the disagreeable and unsanitary conditions that prevail in many villages of equal wealth and population. The rate of taxation, including all taxes chargeable against property within the corporate limits, is less than two per cent.

A marked peculiarity of White Plains is the absence of any factories. There are no factories here, other than two planing mills, the output of which is used principally in local building operations. White Plains is therefore purely a residential place, and is free from the noise and smoke that detract so materially from the peace and comfort of factory towns.

All the Christian denominations are represented, and have large and flourishing congregations.

Population within village, ten thousand.

Pride, and a spirit to excel prevails among our merchants. No town in Westchester County can boast of finer stores or better markets.



CHESTER AVENUE.

Our Railroad Facilities

What might possibly be considered the eighth wonder of the world is the fact that the village of White Plains, served by but one transportation company, which is absolutely free from competition, has a train service which is pronounced satisfactory by those who have occasion to patronize it. The New York Central and Hudson River Railroad, without the incentive of competition on the part of rival lines, and not hampered by the prevailing competitive methods of trolley lines, gives a suburban service between New York and White Plains, which is equalled by but one instance in the United States. The present service is the result of a steady and satisfactory growth from year to year, until at the present time about as many trains are run during the rush hours of the day, as the present track accommodations will take care of. It is gratifying to note, also, that for years the service given has actually exceeded the bare necessities of the business to be taken care of, and that instead of being a little behind the times with its service, the railroad company has led the procession, and is now reaping the resulting benefits.



RESIDENCE OF R. YOUNG.



RESIDENCE OF C. YOUNG

minutes to New York. From 4 to 7 p.m. there is a train every 15 minutes from New York to White Plains.

It is a well-known fact that trains running long distances are more liable to delays from various causes, than those running short distances. The Harlem Division of the New York Central, running through White Plains, is purely a local line, running no long and heavy through trains and as a consequence, the local service is not disturbed through such through trains being off their schedules and interfering with the time for local trains, as is frequently the case on almost every other railroad running out from New York. The percentage of trains making schedule time is very high, and compares most favorably with any other service out of the metropolis.

Any statement regarding the train service of White Plains, must take into consideration the fact that it is on one of the three roads which alone actually run into any part of the City of New York. The Hudson and Harlem Divisions of the New York Central, and the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, are the only lines actually running trains into the metropolis, making stops at Mott Haven, 125th Street and 42nd Street. All other suburban service from New York begins and ends on a foreign shore, and must gain its access to the city proper by ferry, at the present time. The physical conditions of the City of New York are such that this is a wonderful advantage, and one which should be given serious consideration by those contemplating suburban residence. A great deal has been said of late about the tunnel through which these lines operate, south of 96th Street in New York City, and it must be admitted that any tunnel is and must be somewhat of an inconvenience; but any person who has had any experience with the aggravating delays caused by weather conditions in the case of ferries, and the inevitable discomfort of transferring from train to ferry, and vice versa, will probably be glad to go on record in favor of the tunnel, which, while it may be uncom-

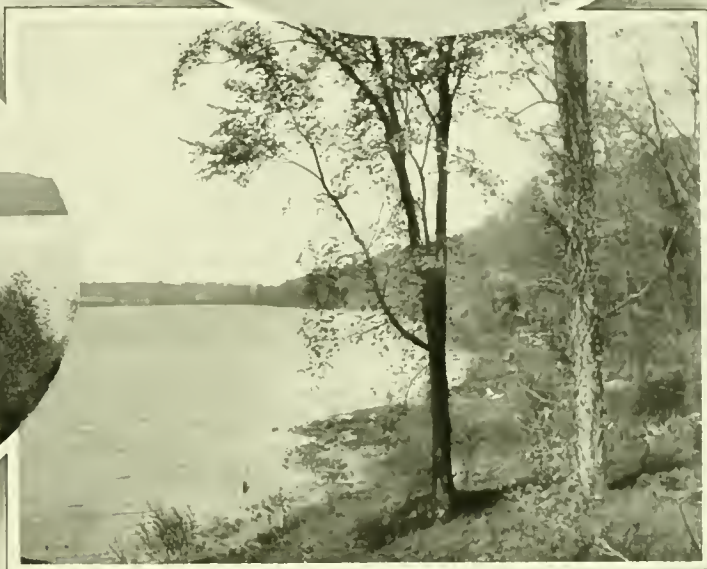
From 5 a.m. until 12 midnight, a day of 19 hours, White Plains has 49 trains to New York, which averages about one train every 25 minutes. Of these, 27 are local trains, leaving on the hour through the day, with an adequate number of additional southbound trains in the rush hours; 14 are local express trains, and 8 are through express trains, well distributed through the day, making no stops between White Plains and New York.

From 7 a.m. until 2.40 a.m., a day of 19 hours and 40 minutes, there arrive at White Plains from New York, 47 trains, which averages about the same as the southbound service. Of these, 27 are local trains, 13 local expresses, and 7 through expresses.

From 6 to 9 a.m. there is a train every 15



RESIDENCE OF H. A. SCHERMERDORN



RYE LAKE





RESIDENCE OF H. D. SELLECK

fortable a small percentage of the time, and the cause of slight detentions occasionally, is never blocked by ice or fog, and through which one can ride to the end of his journey without transfer and the consequent loss of time, and the discomfort of a pushing and elbowing crowd. In this connection, something should be said of the plans which the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad are pushing to completion, which will eliminate all of the present slight discomforts of the tunnel in its suburban service. Such plans, which were some time since made public, include the construction of a subway loop, leading from about 56th Street (the mouth of the present tunnel) to

a new and well planned suburban station on the block embraced within Vanderbilt and Madison Avenues and 43d and 44th Streets, such subway to be so constructed as to exclude all smoke and gas, all local trains to be handled between Mott Haven Junction and the terminal station by electricity. This will be a great improvement, and it will practically eliminate all the present objections to the tunnel entrance to the heart of the city. This work has already been started, and will be completed as rapidly as possible.

In a word, in addition to all its other charms as a suburban home center, the village of White Plains has that most indispensable feature of suburban life, a first-class train service; and in this respect it is excelled by no other village in the outlying districts of the center of the universe commonly called New York. This service is provided by a company which has kept abreast of and even ahead of the times, and it is only fair to presume that as the village flourishes, its train service will keep well in hand with the necessities in that direction. If the recent growth of both the village and the train service is any indication, White Plains has a very gratifying future ahead.



RESIDENCE OF JOHN M. DIXEY.



FISHER AVENUE, SOUTH.



FISHER AVENUE, NORTH.

Our Public Schools



CHATTERTON HILL SCHOOL.

THE public school system of a town is a sure index to the character of the people. The material development, the intellectual life, the social standards, the moral concepts of a community are all dependent on, and all spring from the schools and the churches. The public schools should produce, or at least endeavor to produce, self-reliant, self-controlling, and self-respecting men and women.

Education means in a broad sense, power to grasp and to solve the great problems of life; it means getting hold upon the great thoughts of the past and the present; it means com-

ing in contact with the great minds of the past and the present; it means a broad and clear conception of nature and of nature's God; it means power of concentration and application; it means adaptation to environments; it means power not only to do good, to encourage great activity on the part of those about us, it means in short the development of the perfect man or the perfect woman.

A review of our public schools shows that the administration is along these lines, and the citizens are in thorough sympathy with all that is highest and best.

Our public schools are good enough for children from the most cultured homes, and they are so free from bigotry that all may conscientiously enjoy their benefits. The teaching force, comprised of forty men and women all graduates from either college or normal school, have been selected with great care. The Board of Education and Superintendent endeavor to secure such teachers as have not only thorough preparation, common sense, good health, religious convictions and an insatiable love of work, but such as in addition, feel that teaching is the grandest and noblest profession to which a man or woman could be called.



EAST SIDE SCHOOL.



HIGH SCHOOL.

The total enrollment is about 1,300. There are three well organized grammar schools, and a thoroughly equipped high school.

Over 100 pupils from adjoining towns are registered in our schools, and the monthly income from these pupils is about \$400.

Text books, stationery, and material are furnished children without cost.

Sanitary and health conditions receive very careful consideration.

Children are not allowed to sit in school with wet feet or with rubbers on, and if the face or hands need washing or the hair needs combing, the teachers feel that these are matters of prime importance. The temperature, light and ventilation are watched with care, deaf children



FISHER AVENUE SCHOOL.

are placed in front seats, and children whose sight is impaired are placed where they can see to the best advantage. Examinations made under the direction of the supervisor of physical culture have disclosed many cases of impaired vision, imperfect hearing, and curvature of the spine. All such cases are reported to the parents, and many cases so reported have been treated by specialists. The seats are carefully adjusted to the size of the child, and in every possible way we endeavor to surround the pupils with proper physical conditions.

All cases of contagious diseases are promptly reported to the superintendent of schools by the Board of Health. Immediately all children who could by any possibility be affected, by the cases so reported, are excluded from the school and not readmitted except by certificate from the health officer. If a child should be taken suddenly ill in school, with a contagious disease, a physician employed by the Board of Education examines every child in the room, and causes the room to be thoroughly fumigated, to remove all possibility of further contagion. Teachers are constantly on guard, and suspicious cases are often excluded without the order of a physician. The truant officer prevents the spread of disease by reporting to the superintendent cases not attended by a physician.

We believe most thoroughly that education is for all rather than for a favored few, yet the establishment of institutions for higher education has been a wonderful inspiration to the common schools. Colleges demand thoroughly prepared students, and as a result, college authorities and instructors turn their attention toward the common schools and lend their influence to the upbuilding and betterment of secondary instruction. Any town which maintains a good high school is pretty sure to have satisfactory elementary schools for various reasons. As the college demands and helps to secure secondary schools, so the high school holds the elementary schools to a strict accountability in instruction and discipline. Further than this, just as the prospect of a college course is an inspiration to a high school student, so pupils in the elementary school will do better work, will have more interest in school and will be more apt to continue at their books if the prospect of a high school course is before them.

The science work is now one of the most important and interesting departments of our high school, and the equipment of our laboratory is complete. Our students in physics, chemistry and botany are now able to do individual work under the direction of the instructor; theory has been supplanted by practice, and the students are taught to investigate to perform experiments, to analyze and to know for themselves; arbitrary instruction has given place to self-instruction, and the element of interest has eliminated inattention.

Athletic sports are becoming more and more popular among our students, and in every possible way they are encouraged.

There are several basketball teams not only among our high school students, but in the upper grades.



RESIDENCE OF H. P. STEWART

Football engages the attention of our boys during the Fall months, while baseball and field sports are reserved for the Spring. All these games, aside from their value in physical training, increase interest and pride in our schools. There is a greater spirit of loyalty and a more determined effort to succeed when the element of competition is introduced.

Courtesy, consideration for the rights of others, self-control, perseverance, fairness and courage, are some of many attributes cultivated in the pursuit of athletics.

Our town is centrally located and easily accessible by trolley, by train or by carriage. We offer in our high school, preparation for



RESIDENCE OF B. F. HAVLAND



GRAND STREET.



RESIDENCE OF WM. L. BARKS



RESIDENCE OF MRS. S. FAILE



RESIDENCE OF JOHN DUFFY



RESIDENCE OF E. G. SUTHERLAND



RESIDENCE OF H. O. SNIPEN



RESIDENCE OF R. A. KITCHBACK



RESIDENCE OF CHAS DEUTERMAN.



RESIDENCE OF H. E. SCHMID, M. D.



RESIDENCE OF REV. DR. J. W. T. BOOTHE.



RESIDENCE OF HOWARD E. FOSTER.



RESIDENCE OF BENONI PLATT



RESIDENCE OF I. WEBSTER.



CHURCH STREET



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

business, for college or for technical schools. As a result, a large number of students are attracted from surrounding towns; attention is thus centered on our community, business interests are advanced, people settle in our midst for educational purposes, and there is a high moral and intellectual atmosphere directly traceable to our high school.

Our graduation exercises call to town men of national reputation as commencement speakers. Since we have held regular commencement exercises we have had as speakers: Hon. Charles R. Skinner, Superintendent of Public Instruction; Hon. D. E. Ainsworth, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction; Charles F. Wheelock, Head Inspector



BARKER TERRACE.



RESIDENCE OF CHAS. V. MOORE.

of the Regents of the University; I. H. Stout, Supervisor of Training Classes, and Dr. A. C. McLachlan, Principal of the Jamaica Normal School. Men of this character add dignity to our educational interests, and increase the respect of our people for the schools. An excellent public library stands on the same ground with the high school building, and it is easily accessible for all the students from the various schools.

The Board of Education have established a night school, which is in session during the early months of the year.

Altogether, the educational interests of our town are very carefully conserved, very ably sustained and the citizens are unanimous and enthusiastic in their support.



LEXINGTON AVENUE.



White Plains, the Birthplace of the State of New York.

BY far the most interesting and important event in the Revolutionary history of White Plains, was the assembling of the Provincial Congress of the Colony of New York at the Court House, on the 9th day of July, 1776, pursuant to an adjournment from New York City.

The Congress was organized by the election of General Nathaniel Woodhull as President, who, within a few short weeks thereafter, was destined to lose his life by reason of wound received at the hands of the British on Long Island.

The following Deputies were present from Westchester County, viz: Colonel Lewis Graham, Colonel Pierre Van Cortlandt, Major Ebenezer Lockwood, William Paulding, Captain Jonathan Platt, Samuel Haviland, Zebediah Mills, Colonel Gilbert Drake, Jonathan G. Tompkins, General Lewis Morris, and Gouverneur Morris.

The Congress remained in session at White Plains until July 27th, when it adjourned to meet at Harlem on July 29th.

The following letter dated July 6th, 1776, was received from the Delegates to the Continental Congress, then in session at Philadelphia, viz:

Philadelphia, July 6th, 1776.

"GENTLEMEN:"—

"Although it is not possible to foresee the consequences of human actions, yet it is nevertheless a duty we owe ourselves and posterity in all our public councils to decide in the best manner we are able, and to trust the event to that Being who controls both causes and events, so as to bring about his own determination,

Impressed with this sentiment, and at the same time fully convinced that our affairs may take a more favorable turn, the Congress have judged it necessary to dissolve all connection between Great Britain and the American Colonies, and to declare them free and independent states, as you will perceive by the enclosed Declaration, which I am directed to transmit to you; and to request you will have it proclaimed in your Colony, in the way you shall think most proper.

The important consequences to the American States from this Declaration of Independence, considered as the ground and foundation of a future government, will naturally suggest the propriety of having it proclaimed in such a manner, as that the people may be universally informed of it."

"I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

Your most obedient and very humble servant."

"JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*"

"Honourable Convention of New York."

The following proceedings were had by the Congress:

"Ordered that said letter and Declaration be referred to a Committee, to consist of Mr. Jay, Mr. Yates, Mr. Hobart, Mr. Brasher and Mr. Wm. Smith."

"The Committee appointed to take into consideration the letter from our Delegates in Continental Congress, and the Declaration of Independence, reported the following, which was unanimously agreed to, and is in the words following, that is to



LAFAYETTE HEADQUARTERS



RESIDENCE OF W. R. McGRATH.



RESIDENCE OF W. F. FIERO.

Grounds upon which Declaration of Independence was adopted in New York State.

“ In Convention of the Representatives of the State of New York.
White Plains, July 9, 1776.

“ Resolved unanimously, That the reasons assigned by the Continental Congress for declaring the United Colonies free and independent States are cogent and conclusive; and that while we lament the cruel necessity which has rendered that measure unavoidable, we approve the same, and will, at the risk of our lives and fortunes, join with the other Colonies in supporting it.”

“ Resolved, That a copy of the said Declaration and the foregoing resolution be sent to the Chairman of the Committee of the County of Westchester, with orders to publish the same with beat of drum, at this place on Thursday next, and to give directions that it be published with all convenient speed in the several districts within the said county; and that copies thereof be forthwith transmitted to the other county committees within the State of New York, with order to cause the same to be published in the several districts of their respective Counties.”



THE SECOND COURT HOUSE.
Site of First Court House.



THE FALCONEER RESIDENCE.
Headquarters of British Officers.

“Resolved, That 500 copies of the Declaration of Independence, with the two last mentioned resolutions of this Congress, for approving and proclaiming the same, be published in handbills and sent to all the county committees in this State.”

“Resolved That the Delegates of this State in Continental Congress be and they are hereby authorized to consent and adopt all such measures as they may deem conducive to the happiness and welfare of the United States of America.”

“Ordered, That copies of the aforesaid resolutions be transmitted to the Continental Congress.”

On the 10th day of July, the following resolution was adopted by the Provincial Congress, viz :

“Resolved and Ordered, That the style or title of this House be changed from that of ‘the Provincial Congress of the Colony of New York’ to that of ‘the Convention of the Representatives of the State of New York.’”

This is the first time the expression “State of New York” was officially used and the passage of this resolution properly marks the birth of the State and this old town of White Plains enjoys the supreme distinction of having been its birthplace.

It is an interesting fact and highly suggestive of the readiness of the representatives of the people of this Colony to accept the action of the Continental Congress in dissolving all relations with the mother country, that the above quoted resolutions of July 9th, were adopted before official notice of the Declaration of Independence had reached the Provincial Congress.

This appears by the following letter from the Congress to the body sitting at Philadelphia :

“July 11th, 1775.”

“SIR: Your letter of the 6th July inst. enclosing a copy of the Declaration of Congress, proclaiming the United Colonies free and inde-



RESIDENCE OF ORA HOWARD



CONGRESS HOUSE, WHITE PLAINS



LAKE KENSICO.

pendent States, and requesting us to proclaim and publish the same in this Colony, has been received."

"It gives us pleasure to inform you, that, having been informed of that Declaration by our Delegates, we have anticipated the request of the Congress by our resolutions of the 9th inst., a copy of which was enclosed in a letter we did ourselves the honour of writing you this morning."

"We have the honour to be, etc."

By order,

"The Honourable John Hancock."

(unsigned.)

A fit ending of this brief account of the circumstances attending the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Colony of New York, is the following eloquent and prophetic letter from John Hancock to the Committee of Safety, then sitting at Fishkill, during a recess of the Provincial Congress, viz :

Baltimore, January 31, 1777.

Gentlemen :—

As there is not a more distinguished event in the history of America than the Declaration of her Independence, nor any that, in all probability, will so much excite the attention of future ages, it is highly proper that the memory of that transaction, together with the causes that gave rise to it, should be preserved in the most careful manner that can be devised; I am therefore, commanded by Congress to transmit you the enclosed copy of the Act of Independence, with the list of the several members of Congress subscribed thereto, and to request that you will cause the same to be put upon record, that it may henceforth form a part of the archives of your State, and remain a lasting testimony of your approbation of that necessary and important measure.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient and very humble servant,

Honourable Convention of the State of New York.

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

The Battle of White Plains.



WHITE PLAINS was originally settled by men from the shore-town of Rye. By reason of its inland situation it bore a very inconspicuous part in the early public affairs of the American Colonies. Its inhabitants were intent on the tillage of the soil and the incidental milling of their grain and sawing of their lumber for the practical uses of their peaceful life. They were loyal to their sovereign and the oppressions of the British Crown were less sorely felt than in the more accessible coast towns. By the removal of the County Court House from Westchester to White Plains in 1750, the life of the hamlet grew more variegated and interesting, and came into closer touch with the stirring events of the times. The town became the gathering place for public assemblies where the political affairs of the colony were hotly discussed, and appeals to the spirit of liberty and independence were frequent and earnest. Here, in time, the Provincial Congress of New York held its sittings and the momentous questions of the day were debated. Here the Declaration of Independence was first read in the State of New York, and White Plains rose to a prominent place in Colonial affairs. And here was soon after to be enacted one of the most important events in the history of the American Revolution. The battle of White Plains, as a contest of arms, takes no rank among the great battles of history, but its bearings on the future of the American nation were of the utmost importance.

The Revolution, begun at the battle of Lexington, in April, 1775, had been up to August, 1776, almost entirely favorable to the Colonists. The British Army, under Howe, had been forced to retire from Boston and take shelter in Halifax. Montgomery, though finally defeated at Quebec, had driven Carleton from Lake Champlain back to Montreal and then to Quebec. Clinton's naval expedition to South Carolina had been a complete failure. The British had no foothold within the thirteen colonies.

Parliament had at last begun to realize the magnitude of the task they had undertaken, had appropriated £15,000,000 for a vigorous prosecution of the war, had raised a large force of skilled soldiery at home and hired disciplined Hessian troops from Germany. Their purpose was to concentrate the combined forces at New York, effect a union with Carleton from the north, take possession of the Hudson and so cut off connection between New England and the other colonies. This large army was sent over in August, 1776, and landed at Staten Island. Washington had massed his troops, 14,000 strong, for the protection of the city, and a large force was entrenched on Brooklyn Heights. A few days later the British landed at Gravesend Bay, south of Brooklyn. The battle of Long Island followed, resulting in defeat and great loss to the Colonists. Under cover of night and a thick fog, they retreated across the river to New York, and Washington massed his discouraged troops on Harlem Heights. Howe followed, taking possession of the city, and many indecisive skirmishes took place. General Howe's plan now, was to get in the rear of Washington, in hope of extinguishing his entire army and crushing out the rebellion at a single blow. Accordingly, he landed a large number of troops at Throgg's Neck. Washington, ever alert, saw Howe's purpose and sent a detachment to Throgg's Neck to intercept him. This expedition was so far successful that it kept the British at bay for five days, while Washington made preparations to move his army to White Plains.

Painful as it must have been to Washington, there was now no alternative left him but to abandon Manhattan Island in order to save his army and the cause. Fort Washington alone was left with a garrison, and with the remainder of his army, Washington pressed rapidly on over King's Bridge, over Valentine's Fort and along the west bank of the Bronx to White Plains, where the stores had already been concentrated.

RAMPARTS ON MOUNT MISERY



VIEW FROM CHATTERTON HILL

BATTLE
OF
WHITE PLAINS

OCTOBER
28th
1776



WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS.



VIEW FROM MOUNT MISERY



RAMPARTS ON MT MISERY



W.M. MULDOON'S SANITARIUM

Here the army arrived on October 21st, and rested on the hilly ground, north of the village; their lines extending from the Bronx over Dusenbury's Hill, across Broadway and eastward to the rocky hills at Horton's Pond, now St. Mary's Lake. There on the two following days, they built three lines of breastworks on the hillsides at varying elevations. General Lee from the south had arrived with two divisions and the total number of troops was about 25,000; but one-half of these were sick or unfit for duty. The remaining 13,000 were raw recruits, farmers' boys, undisciplined, mostly un-uniformed, ragged, ill-fed and disheartened, and hundreds, their terms of enlistment having expired, were daily leaving the ranks and going home. With infinite patience, Washington inspired them and kept them at work, preparing for the conflict, which seemed to be inevitable.



KNOLLWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

Meantime, Howe, abandoning the attempt to get in rear of Washington's army, had withdrawn his forces from Throgg's Neck, and landing them at Pelham, marched through New Rochelle up North Street to Scarsdale, where the army lay in camp for several days. Here Howe laid his plans for a final and decisive engagement, which would annihilate the rebel army, and crush the rebellion. Everything being ready, on October 28th, Howe, with his entire army, numbering 15,000 disciplined soldiers, came up the Post Road from Scarsdale, driving in the American pickets, and spread out his lines eastward over the Plains from the Bronx to the Mamaroneck Road.

Washington had despatched



GROVE STREET.



THE KEELEY INSTITUTE.

five regiments with some artillery, under command of General MacDougal, to hold Chatterton Hill. Howe, perceiving their position, sent a detachment of Hessian infantry and grenadiers with the 2d English Brigade to dislodge them. Crossing the Bronx at the ford, probably near the present Sewage Disposal Works, they filed along Mill Lane, covered by the fire of the British cannon from the plateau on the east side of the river. Suddenly facing to the left, in a long line they rushed up the steep and rugged hill in the face of a galling and deadly fire from the summit, while the bulk of the hostile armies, Washington from the hills, and Howe from the Plains, watched the combat from afar. Laboriously,



WHITE PLAINS HOSPITAL

but with the steadiness of trained soldiers, the Royal forces stormed the hill while the Americans poured down a raking fire of shot, and with great bravery resisted every approach. The Americans were holding their position, the British lines were breaking and their men were falling fast, and it seemed to the watching armies that the Americans had won the day; when suddenly, Colonel Rall, in command of two regiments of

Hessians, who had climbed by an easier ascent on the south, appeared over the brow of the hill from the west and opened a merciless cross-fire upon the gallant and almost victorious defenders of the hill. The Americans, out-numbered and out-flanked, beat a hasty, though orderly, retreat down the hill, across the bridge, and up to Washington's camp on Dusenbury's Hill, while the British occupied the hill they had vacated. The battle had been short, and the British were victorious. The loss of the Americans in killed and wounded was not over one hundred, though many stragglers were taken prisoners. The British loss, however, was at least two hundred and twenty-nine killed and wounded. The latter were re-



FLOOMINGDALE



THE SPEEDWAY IN WINTER.

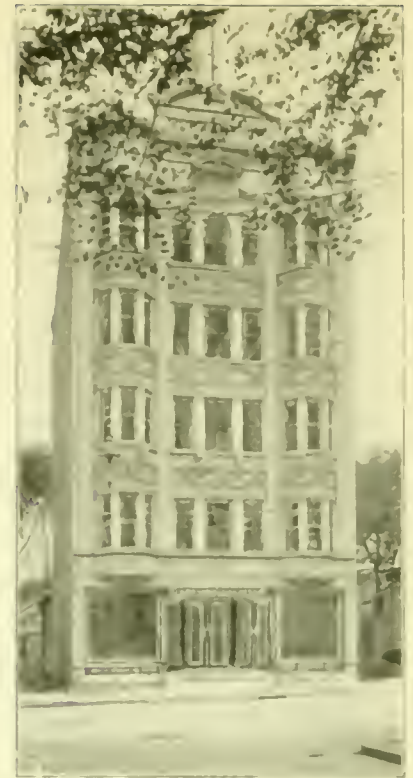
moved to and cared for in the temporary hospital at the old Quimby homestead on the Post Road, recently pulled down.

Had General Howe followed up his advantage, and made a vigorous attack all along the line, as he had originally planned, he would probably have been successful, and the cause of American Independence have been irretrievably lost. But his advantage had been gained at so severe a cost that he hesitated to take any further risk until he had received re-inforcements. Doubtless, he remembered the victory so dearly bought at Bunker Hill, and though he may have felt success to be within his grasp, he decided to be doubly sure of it. Accordingly, the British army settled down in camp and waited for the two battalions of Hessians and the four regiments which Howe had ordered from New Rochelle and New York. Three days were thus wasted before re-inforcements arrived. On the 31st, there was a drenching rain and the attack was postponed for another day.

Meanwhile, Washington had been busy cheering and inspiring his raw and disheartened troops, by keeping them at work throwing up strong works in the rear on the heights of North Castle. These hills were steep and inaccessible, and commanded the roads and approaches to the north. There the army would be securely fortified and able to withstand any attack that Howe might make. Thither the stores and cannon were quietly removed, and on the night of the 31st the whole army vacated their camp at White Plains and retired to their impregnable position at North Castle. The movement was decisive. Howe had been outgeneraled. When he took possession of the abandoned camp of the Americans, on the morning of November 1st, he realized that his plans had failed and there was no prospect of success except by a long siege during the months of the fast approaching Winter. After several days of inactivity and irresolution,



RESIDENCE OF L. A. CUSHMAN



EASTERN STATE JOURNAL
BUILDING

Howe suddenly broke camp and moved his army to Dobbs Ferry and thence by the river road towards New York. It has developed in recent years, that one of the causes of Howe's sudden change of base, was the certainty of capturing Fort Washington, which was still held by the Americans, owing to the treachery of an officer of the garrison there, who had betrayed to the British commander a plan of the fort and its approaches, and full information concerning the garrison, its stores and munitions, thus making its capture possible and easy.

On the 6th of November, Washington held a council of war, and it was unanimously agreed to throw the troops into New Jersey, and on the 9th, the movement was made, leaving only a few thousand troops under General Lee until all fear of attack from Howe should be over. Lee remained at North Castle for a fortnight and then joined the rest of the army in New Jersey.

Thus passed one of the most critical periods in the history of the Revolutionary war. The little fight of half an hour on Chatterton Hill, insignificant as it was, and, like the fight at Bunker Hill, disastrous to the American forces, yet was the turning point in the apparently victorious progress of the British arms.

The night after Howe's withdrawal, was celebrated with great hilarity by the American soldiers, and disgraced by acts of the most inexcusable vandalism on the part of the militia from Massachusetts, who burned the Court House, the Presbyterian Church, and many private dwellings and stores. Thenceforward, during the war, the town, being in neutral territory, was harried alike by friend and foe, skimmers and cowboys, so that for many years, White Plains was a desolate and deserted village, and all enterprise and spirit had been stamped out.



WHITE PLAINS COURTHOUSE
BUILDING

Remains of Washington's entrenchments are still to be seen on Dusenbury's Hill, and a small rampart with a mortar mounted on it—illustrated on cover page—has been sacredly preserved on Broadway, opposite the residence of Wm. A. Woodworth, Esq. The entrenchments on Mount Misery, west of the reservoir in North Castle, are also very distinctly visible. The headquarters of Washington during his stay here, was the old house now standing near the North White Plains Railroad station at the base of Mount Misery.

The old house known as the headquarters, occupied by General Lafayette in 1776, is also standing, on Spring Street.

The old house known as the John Falkeneer house occupied by British officers in 1776, stood on the lot north of and adjoining the residence of Wm. R. Brown on Broadway, and was torn down several years ago.



ORAWAUPUM HOTEL.



THE ELBERON HOTEL.



RESIDENCE OF E. T. HOPKINS.

Newspapers.—White Plains is exceptionally fortunate in its newspapers. The oldest paper in the County, *The Eastern State Journal* was established here in May, 1845, and has been published continuously since. *The Westchester News* was established in 1871. *The Westchester County Reporter*, since May, 1891, and *The White Plains Argus* issued its first number in 1896. All are enterprising and successful weeklies, ably edited, and well conducted; the fact of White Plains being the County seat enables the papers to give attention to the news of the courts and County offices, as well as the happenings of the village and adjacent towns.



WHITE PLAINS BANK POST OFFICE.

The Home Savings Bank of White Plains.—Was established in 1893, and has had the most remarkable growth of any savings institution in the State; its deposits now aggregate over \$1,250,000. It pays its depositors for interest on their money about \$40,000 per annum, and, since its business life, less than ten years, has paid over \$150,000 in interest, having always paid at the rate of four per cent. per annum; besides doing this, it has earned a handsome surplus, amounting to \$36,500, which is held as additional security for its deposits.

The White Plains Bank.—Began business in 1893, with a capital of \$50,000, and has steadily increased its business, until a short time ago, it increased its capital to \$100,000, realizing the necessity of more capital to properly take care of

its growing business; it numbers among its customers, many of the best business men of the town, and will soon become a National Bank, having been assigned the title of The First National Bank of White Plains, N. Y., by the Comptroller of the Currency.

The Central Bank.—The Central Bank of Westchester County, the oldest bank in the village, was established in 1868, and ever since has enjoyed the confidence of the community to the fullest extent, and to-day, if not the leading bank in the County in point of standing and responsibility, is the equal of any other.

In the Roll of Honor of the State Banks of the United States for the year 1901, (and in order to be included in the roll, a bank must have surplus and undivided profits in excess of its capital), this bank was No. 48 in the State of New York.

It occupies a substantial stone building in the center of the business part of the village near the Court House, with all the modern conveniences for customers. Large vault, fire proof safes and a safe deposit safe, private room for ladies, and every accommodation in keeping with a modern well managed institution.

During the many panics and uncertain times which have occurred in the past thirty years, the depositors of this bank have never felt disturbed or troubled for the safety of their money, and today, the confidence of the people of this community in this



CENTRAL BANK



RAILROAD AVENUE.

institution, is of the very highest order, and each year finds its business improved, and its condition more prosperous.

The brief description and the illustrations herein, are designed to reach those who desire homes, and have not yet seen White Plains, or heard of its many advantages as a desirable place of residence.

Good elevation, pure air, and pure water; accessibility to his place of business and excellent railway service. Improved and shaded streets. Well equipped local stores and markets. Good schools and churches. Good sanitary conditions and fine drives, make White Plains "The" Ideal spot to locate a home.

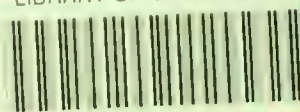
To all such, White Plains extends a hearty welcome. In the words of the great actor when called before the curtain at the end of the play, "My friends what would you more?"



AUDITORIUM.



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